June is the month for celebrating

There has been much confusion on what month “Gay Pride” is celebrated. Is it celebrated in the month of October or in the month of June? To explore (and clear up the muddle about) the months of October and June, I will provide some background on the confusion.

The root of the confusion is not difficult to find. The perception of the months has been messed up by the concepts of “out” (the declaration of one’s sexual orientation) and “pride” (the celebration of one’s sexual orientation).

In the month of October, National Coming Out Day is celebrated. This day happens to fall on the same day as Christopher Columbus Day. National Coming Out Day has sparked other events, such as the Out in October celebrations.

As far as the month of June, it is celebrated because of the Stonewall Riots of 1969.

Over the decades, police have raided gay bars thousands of times, however the one that stands out the most is the raid that sparked a riot in New York’s Greenwich Village. During a typical raid undercover cops usually singled out “feminine” men; however, on this night, one individual decided to fight back and by doing so hundreds and later thousands would join the battle.

It was the gay community making a stand against oppression and demanding more respect then they were treated with in the past. This is the reason that ‘Stonewall’ is known to many lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people everywhere.

There were many decades in the past being gay or lesbian and showing affection such as holding hands or even a kiss could lead to an arrest or admission to a mental institute. Having this happen because of one’s sexuality is wrong, and to make things worse, he or she would be convicted without a hearing.

By making a stand not only with the police, but also with society in general, every year now the GLBTQ community will march in the month of June to show their “Gay Pride.”

It is important to realize that gay and lesbian relationships have existed throughout our history (though “history” may have been extremely discreet about it). It is has not been the relationships changing throughout time but the way that society views them.

Fighting for “Gay Rights” has enabled many of the GLBTQ community to break away from isolation, therefore being able to learn of a larger community. Society must realize people come in different sizes, shapes and colors, yet we still struggle with issues of diversity. By educating one another, we can make a stand against oppression.

—Leilani Fisher
TCC student

“Any idiot can face a crisis. It’s this day-to-day living that wears you out.”
—An ton Chekov 1850-1904

“Dictionaries are like watches. The worst is better than none at all and even the best cannot be expected to run quite true.”
—Samuel Johnson 1709-1784

ΦΘΚ
The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society will hold its spring induction ceremonies May 20 in Building 11.

Achievers Scholars:
The spring award ceremony and reception for members of the Achievers Scholars and First Generation Scholarship programs has been scheduled for May 26, 6 p.m. in the Student Center. RSVP by May 19.

Mid-quarter Advising Day is May 19!
May is Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

From the early 1800s to the 21st century, Asian and Pacific peoples have played a vital role in the development of the United States and made lasting contributions in all elements of American society.

The month of May is Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month, a celebration of Asian and Pacific Islanders in the United States. The evolution of this special month is similar to that of Black History and Women’s History celebrations.

APA Heritage Month originated in June 1977; Representatives Frank Horton and Norman Y. Mineta introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week.

On October 5, 1978, President Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration. In May 1990, the holiday was expanded further when President George H. W. Bush designated May to be APA Heritage Month. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States in 1843.

There are an estimated 12.5 million Asian Pacific American U.S. residents as of July 1, 2001. This group comprises 4.4% of the total population, and is one of the fastest growing segments of our population.

When I was first asked to do this article for MECA my first thought was: no problem, I will go downstairs, find the club that has Asian Pacific American background and talk to them so I could get a better understanding of who they are. As I started to explore this group, I found the term “Asian Pacific American” is just as vague and culturally unsatisfying as “Euro-Americans.”

There are no pan-Asian clubs on campus, possibly because Asian Pacific Americans have a diverse variety of very strong cultures, Chinese, Hawaiians, Vietnamese, and Korean among dozens of others.

This was a new to me and after talking to Rahim Khoja, who is the coordinator for Clubs’ and Organizations, I was informed that any student can start a club, if one so desires. He added that he would welcome anyone who would like to take this on. He is located in building 11 at the Clubs’ and Organizations office.

—Greg Gill
TCC Student

Cultural Heritage Calendar

Sep./Oct.—Hispanic Heritage Month
October—Americans with Disabilities Month
Nov.—Native American Heritage Month
Dec.—Human Rights
Jan.—Middle Eastern Heritage Awareness Month
Feb.—Black History Month
March—Women’s History Month
Apr.—European American Heritage Month
May—Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month
June—Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Awareness Month

Workshops, events highlight May-June Schedule

The Free Student Workshop series concludes the year with a “double header” on May 18. The free 50-minute workshops are sponsored by MECA, CASA Student Support Services, The Writing Center, The Tutoring Center and The Reading Lab, and include:

- Money Management, 11:30, May 18 in the Rainier Room; led by Jeff Southard of NELA.
- Degree Requirements, 12:30, May 18 in the Binns Room, Building 7, led by Sharon Rissmiller of the Advising Center.

TCC Student Activities is sponsoring a free performance of “Within the Silence,” a play about the Japanese internment camps during WWII: 12:30 p.m. May 10 in the Student Center.

There will also be a tour of the Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle planned for May 25 (cost $2 for students, $4 for non-students, vans leave TCC at 11 a.m.), the Asian/Pacific Islander Club is sponsoring a Luau Party in the Student Center beginning at noon on May 27.

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